

TOWN OF IPSWICH
MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Monday, March 16, 2015,
Ipswich Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015 at 7 PM in Selectmen's Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Chairman. Craft called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
Selectmen present: William Craft, Chair; Judy Field; Charles Surpitski and Nishan Mootafian.
Also present: Robin Crosbie, Town Manager
Not present: Shirley Berry
The open meeting was recorded, with permission, by Ipswich Access Community Media.

Public Information:

Agenda --Packet

Consent Agenda
Minutes – March 2, 2015
Minutes – March 5, 2015
Minutes – February 24, 2015
Employee Status

Citizen's Queries

Kelly Jane Kloub 65 Mitchell Road-Inquired about the Way Finding Signs and the budget for them. She asked about the designs, where they would be placed, and if they would be uploaded to the town website. Mr. Craft stated there are models in the town hall. Mr. Gibbs, Director of the Planning Department stated that they would possibly be on the town website and would look into having this completed.

Phil Goguen 4 Kingfisher Road: Inquired if the public would be able to speak to the warrant articles at this meeting. Mr. Craft stated that the BOS will set the warrant tonight and the public hearing will be held at the next meeting. Mr. Goguen wanted Mr. Craft to explain the Board's version of autonomy Mr. Goguen has concerns about the fact that the school has not paid the town back for money borrowed. He also wondered about spending money on repairing the buildings. Ms. Crosbie explained that some of these repairs came out of the capital budget due to the importance of the repairs. Mr. Goguen had complaints about the town budget, and the availability of the numbers on the town's website.

Sign Waiver of Restriction for Old Town Hall

The old town hall is being sold and the town has first right of refusal on the project. A prospective buyer would like to turn this into a residential building and the Board has decided to support this plan, and will sign the waiver at this meeting. Ms. Field stated that the waiver is waiving the town's right to buy the building back, we do not have the ability monetarily to buy this building. The best thing to do is sell this building so it does not remain vacant.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to accept and sign the waiver and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

James Kroesser Attorney from Hamilton representing the purchaser, requested the Board sign the right of first refusal and hold onto this until closing takes place. This will not take force until the buyer acquires the property and closing takes place.

Linebrook Road Vote on Option

Bill Ross, New England Civil Engineering appeared before the Board with Heidi Paek, Chair of the Planning Board and Rick Clarke, Director of the DPW. Mr. Ross went over the parts of the project that had already been presented to the Board. Mr. Ross recommends that the entire road be repaved, make the width consistent the entire length, replace water mains, repave the school parking lot and extend the sidewalks from Washington Street to School Street. There were some discussion with the Planning Department to make the 12.5 foot roadway which would free up funding to make the sidewalk go all the way to the school. Ms. Paek explained that when the Planning Board reviewed the presentation that was presented, they recognized short comings with both options. The 13 foot lanes with the 2 foot shoulders and sidewalks to Doyon would be prohibitive because of cost. They also felt this was making the road wider then was necessary. The 12 foot lanes, only allowed for an 18 inch shoulder, and bicycle handlebars are 24 inches across. The bicycle lane should be wide enough to accommodate a bicycle. Because of this, the Planning Board thought another option should be presented in the middle of these two options. Planning Board acknowledges that the plan goes over budget by \$191,000 but it will preserve the character of the road, but allow more travel options for people who live in this area if the sidewalks are put down all the way to Doyon. Mr. Clarke has concerns about the width of the road because of the heavy trucks, but he does agree sidewalks should go from school to school. He recommends the 13 foot wide roads with the 2 foot shoulders. He stated the sidewalks should go to Doyon School and design to Howe Street and get prices and come back to the Boards for this later. He stated that the town should go for chapter 90 for the drainage which is the first phase of the project so that nothing gets held up on construction. Ms. Paek wanted to mention citizen comments brought to the Planning Board, and they involved the trucks on the road and the speeds that all vehicles drive on this road.

Ms. Field wanted clarification on the two plans presented. She is in agreement that the narrower the travel lane, the more drivers will have to slow down. Mr. Surpitski inquired if other options to slow people down had been considered and it was confirmed they had not. Mr. Mootafian inquired if there was other pressing needs that the chapter 90 money should be used for. He did not feel that chapter 90 money should be used, that the budget was set to 3 million and it should stay within this original budget. Glenn Gibbs, Director of the Planning and Development wanted to remind the Board that last time we were discussing 12 foot lanes over 13 and that 3 out of 4 members preferred the 12 foot over 13. The proposal this time has 12.5 over 13 was because the 18 inch shoulder is not adequate for bicycles. He feels that building a 13 foot lanes, and looking into sidewalks goes against the intent of the project and what the expectations were. This includes sidewalks from School Street to Doyon School. Ms. Crosbie wanted to know if this was discussed with Rick, and it was confirmed that Rick preferred the 13 foot lanes but that the sidewalks would be up for grabs. Ms. Crosbie said the sidewalks are not up for grabs. Mr. Craft then had Mr. Ross go through the numbers from the first presentation one more time.

Marc Simon, 2 Charlotte Road: Spoke to the idea that this is a project with a longer term view on it that would like to be done right. He doesn't believe a cost issue but would like to ask that the town approach the gas company about extending the gas line as part of the road project. If it is not done now it will never be done and it is a great opportunity and be a cost savings for residents in the area. Mr. Clarke said they are already contacted National Grid about this and its in progress.

Gordon Harris 17 Mill Road: Inquired if curbing would be involved. Mr. Ross said curbing would only be where it already is, it would not be put in where it doesn't already exist. Curbing can be dangerous for bicycles because it doesn't give them any safety room. He advocates there be curbs left out where they can. He has similar concerns with storm drains for bicycles, if they sink in it can be dangerous for cars and bicyclists. Mr. Ross said the practice would be to make these parallel with the road, with a slight indent into the road because it has to direct the water towards it. He would also like to know how many times the sidewalk crosses the road, and it was confirmed it would cross twice and crosswalks would be included.

Mr. Craft instructed the Board to voice their opinions.

- Mr. Mootafian leaned towards option A for sidewalks and 13 foot lanes. He does not want to use chapter 90 money on this project.
- Ms. Field said she would like option A and B for sidewalks and 12.5 foot travel lane.
- Mr. Surpitski would like option A and B for sidewalks and 13 foot travel lanes.
- Mr. Craft would like Option A and B for sidewalks and 13 foot travel lanes

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved to have sidewalk options A and B with 13 foot travel lanes, Mr. Craft seconded. Ms. Field and Mr. Mootafian did not agree. The motion did not carry.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to have Sidewalk option A & B with 12.5 foot travel lanes, there was no second. The motion did not carry.

There was further discussion about how gas prices lowering may affect the prices of the bids and it could bring other prices down. Due to not having an approved vote, this would need to come back before the Board for another vote at the April meeting and it was also confirmed that it would not push back the project if a vote was completed in April.

Phil Goguen 4 Kingfisher Road: How many proposals do we have for this project? He compared this project to the Central Street project. The differences were explained to him by Mr. Clarke. He would also like an asterisk put in the presentation about how much it will effect taxes. Mr. Craft said he would look into having this added.

PUBLIC HEARING – Water & Wastewater Rate Hearing (1 of 2)

Mr. Craft read the legal notice.

Vicki Halmen, Water & Wastewater Manager appeared before the Board to discuss the rates. She reviewed the water base rate and the seasonal rate first via a PowerPoint presentation. This includes an 11% rate increase for 2016. Mr. Mootafian inquired about whether there were discussions about instead of raising 1.5 times the summer rate, going to 1.25 times. Ms. Halmen stated she did not look into this due to previous Board meetings where discussion led her to believe the proposal for 1.5 was acceptable. Mr. Surpitski questioned the summer rate, whether people are struggling to pay this bill. Ms. Halmen confirmed that she had not seen this.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved that the base rate be adjusted as presented and the summer and winter rates be adjusted as presented and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously. This vote was later withdrawn

Ms. Halmen reviewed the Wastewater rate increases via a PowerPoint presentation explaining raising the water rate 9%.

Mr. Surpitski felt we should stick to past records and not vote until the second rate hearing. He respectfully asks to withdraw the previous motion.

Linda Alexson, 19 Juniper Street: Has concerns about the subcommittee not having met on this issue prior to the hearing. Ms. Halmen confirmed there have been difficulties getting a quorum for the meeting so it hasn't been able to be held. Ms. Alexson asked about the rate increases in percentages the last few years. Ms. Halmen said in May 2014 it went up 3%, and the previous year it was 10% and 2012 it was 10%. Ms. Alexson wanted to know how much would go to the surplus, and Ms. Halmen confirmed that there is no surplus being built in 2016-2017. Mrs. Alexson asked if well owners would also have to fall under summer restrictions, Ms. Halmen confirmed this was discussed but she needed to reconfirm the information. Mr. Craft explained we did not have the power to restrict well users usage.

Vote on Capital Budget

Ms. Crosbie stated that she presented the capital plan/budget at the last meeting, and requests that the Board approve the plan and projects as presented. She also confirmed that she is looking into purchasing used vehicles instead of purchasing new vehicles. Mr. Craft explained the capital plan also has some articles on the warrant. Mr. Surpitski requested confirmation that the track in the school gym was going

to cost \$90,000 instead of \$40,000 as is presented in the plan. Ms. Crosbie confirmed that this is correct, and why it is in the warrant. There was some thought the school would find matching funds that did not occur.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved accept the capital plan as presented and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to Set ATM Warrant Articles

There is a request that an additional article be added to the warrant.

Bruce Flynn and Beatrice Tiberii appeared before the Board, they would like to open a niche culinary market place on 2 South Main Street. They found out there are no wine licenses available so they are requesting special legislation to get an additional wine license for their store to be named Cellar Door.

Vote: Ms. Field moved that we amend the warrant article to approve an additional wine and malt license for 2 South Main, The Cellar Door, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Ms. Crosbie explained that the issue being wrestled with in the warrant is in respect to the snow removal. The town is over budget, on this and we have more requests for free cash then we actually have money for. The Board should have some anticipation on having to dip into the stabilization fund, and what they want to use this money for. If we want to fund all of the articles, then the municipal budget amendments should be paid with the stabilization fund because they were unforeseen expenses and if we get any federal relief the money can be placed back into the fund. This was discussed at length. It was decided to hold off on painting the town hall for another year.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to exclude article 14 from the warrant and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ray Morley 2 East Street appeared before the Board regarding his citizen petition. He provided handouts to the Board and explained why he created his petition. He would like “incidentally” removed from the zoning bylaw for Inn’s in Ipswich.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to set the warrant with the current circumstances with the modifications made, Mr. Surpitksi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Commercial Shellfish Licenses

The list is considered accurate and has been posting accordingly. There will be 91 total licenses are renewed, 7 were applied for via the lottery.

Vote: Mr Mootafian moved to approve the Commercial Shellfish Licenses and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Election (within the annual town election) to fill the unexpired portion of Moriah Marsh’s term as a member of the Ipswich Housing Authority

Moriah Marsh’s term was set to expire in May 2016.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to file with the town clerk a notice of an election to fill the unexpired portion of Moriah Marsh’s term as a member of the Ipswich Housing Authority from the effective date of her resignation until the town election of 2016 this will be held within the annual town election Tuesday May 19, 2015 and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Lifetime Shellfish Permit(s)

Vote: Mr Mootafian moved to approve the Lifetime Shellfish Permits and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

One Day Liquor License(s) –Ipswich Brewery

Vote: Mr Mootafian moved to approve the one day liquor license and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Common Victualler(s)—Zeno's Roastbeef, 40 Central Street

Vote: Ms. Field moved to approve the common victualler license and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

a) February 24, 2015—Tri Board

b) March 2, 2015

c) March 5, 2015

Vote: Mr Mootafian moved to approve the February 24th , March 2nd and 5th Minutes and Ms. Field seconded. Mr. Craft approved the 2nd and 5th meetings, but abstained from voting on the February 24th meeting due to missing that meeting. The motion passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Mootafian's son Alex and his friends performed in a competition robotics and out of 40 participants they came in 24th. The team will be going to Northeastern to compete at the end of March.

Adjournment

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to adjourn, Ms. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Dionne

3.23.15